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CLAIMS

1. A restraint for placement around a girth of an animal, the restraint including:
 - a belt having first and second belt ends, and an elongate linker,
 - 5 - the first belt end having an aperture; and
 - the elongate linker engaging the second belt end at a first linker end, the linker passing through the aperture to terminate at a stopper at a second linker end;wherein a pulling force directed away from the girth of the animal applied to the stopper when the restraint is in a first, larger girth position, allows movement of the elongate linker
10 through the aperture throughout a plurality of second, smaller girth positions to a minimum girth position, the minimum girth position being substantially similar to that of the girth of the animal such that there is an absence of a choking of the animal's girth.
2. The restraint according to claim 1, wherein the girth of the animal is a neck of an animal.
- 15 3. The restraint according to claim 1, wherein the movement of the elongate linker through the aperture provides a noise detectable by the animal.
4. The restraint according to claim 3, wherein the noise assists in the training of the animal.
- 20 5. The restraint according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the elongate linker is a chain.
6. The restraint according to claim 5, wherein the chain is a twist-link chain.
- 25 7. The restraint according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the linker is formed from a linker material that optimises the noise detectable by the animal to achieve an optimal training response in the animal.
8. The restraint according to claim 7, wherein the linker material is a chain having a gauge
30 that is increased or decreased to optimise the noise detectable by the animal to achieve the optimal training response.

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9. The restraint according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the restraint further includes a placement device to facilitate location and/or adjustment of the restraint about the girth of the animal.

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10. The restraint according to claim 9 wherein the placement device is a buckle, the buckle having a buckle tongue, the strap including one or more holes for receiving the buckle tongue.

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11. The restraint according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the restraint further includes a belt length-adjustment device and at least one of the belt ends, the belt being doubled at the belt end for passing through the belt length-adjustment device, thereby lengthening or shortening the girth of the restraint.

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12. The restraint of any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is suitable for engagement with a tether.

13. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is permanently attached to a tether.

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14. The restraint according to claim 13, wherein the permanent attachment of the tether is by way of being continuous with the tether.

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15. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the aperture of the restraint is in the form of a ring.

16. The restraint according to claim 15, wherein the ring is an O-ring.

17. The restraint according to claim 15, wherein the ring is a D-ring.

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18. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the restraint further includes a second belt-end ring on the second belt end, the second belt-end ring for engaging the first end of the elongate portion of the linker.

5 19. The restraint according to claim 18, wherein the second belt-end ring is a D-ring.

20. The restraint according to claim 19, wherein the second belt-end ring is an O-ring.

10 21. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is substantially annular.

22. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the strap is leather.

15 23. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the strap is formed from a webbed material.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[(received by the International Bureau on 14 September 2004 (14.09.04);
original claims 10-11, 22-23 replaced by amended claims 10-11, 22-23;
remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

9. The restraint according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the restraint further includes a placement device to facilitate location and/or adjustment of the restraint about the girth of the animal.

5 10. The restraint according to claim 9 wherein the placement device is a buckle, the buckle having a buckle tongue, the belt including one or more holes for receiving the buckle tongue.

10 11. The restraint according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the restraint further includes a belt length-adjustment device, wherein at least one of the belt ends, the belt being doubled at the belt end for passing through the belt length-adjustment device, thereby lengthening or shortening the girth of the restraint.

15 12. The restraint of any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is suitable for engagement with a tether.

13. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is permanently attached to a tether.

20 14. The restraint according to claim 13, wherein the permanent attachment of the tether is by way of being continuous with the tether.

15. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the aperture of the restraint is in the form of a ring.

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16. The restraint according to claim 15, wherein the ring is an O-ring.

17. The restraint according to claim 15, wherein the ring is a D-ring.

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18. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the restraint further includes a second belt-end ring on the second belt end, the second belt-end ring for engaging the first end of the elongate portion of the linker.

5 19. The restraint according to claim 18, wherein the second belt-end ring is a D-ring.

20. The restraint according to claim 19, wherein the second belt-end ring is an O-ring.

10 21. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the stopper of the restraint is substantially annular.

22. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the belt is leather.

15 23. The restraint according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the belt is formed from a webbed material.